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U.S. Rural electrification administration.

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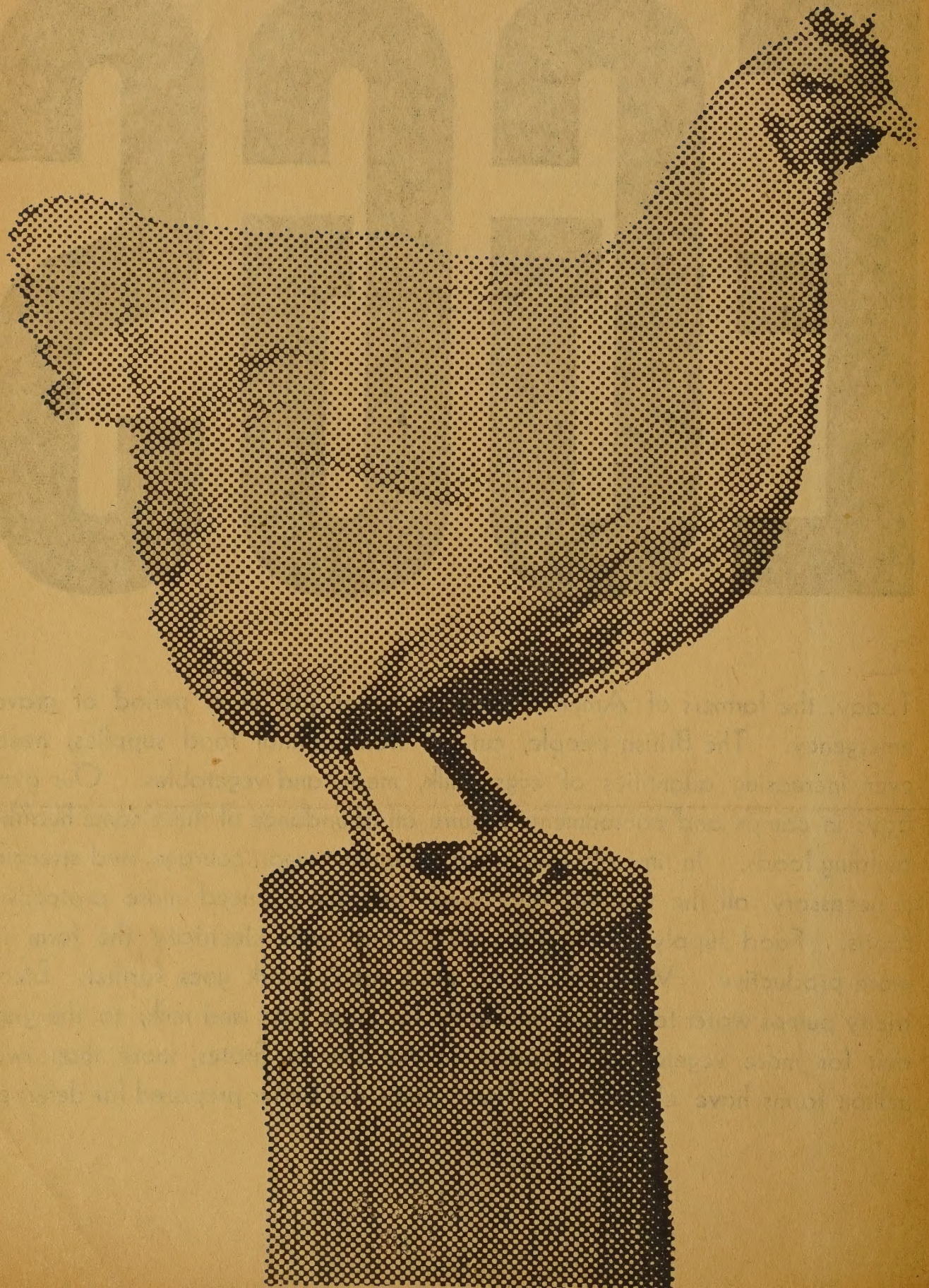
U. S. Department of Agriculture

EGGS

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Reserve

Today, the farmers of America have a major job in a period of grave emergency. The British people, cut off from normal food supplies, need ever increasing quantities of eggs, milk, meat, and vegetables. Our own boys in camps and cantonments require an abundance of these same health-building foods. In time of crisis, when the utmost vigor, courage, and strength is necessary, all the people—city and farm alike—need more protective foods. Food supply is the job ahead and with electricity the farm is more productive. With electricity, each man's work goes farther. Electricity pumps water to poultry and cows for more eggs and milk; to the garden for more vegetables. Today, in the United States, more than two million farms have electricity. These farms are better prepared for defense.

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FALL BROODING. On many farms brooder and brooder house stand idle from early summer to the following spring. All-out defense has no place for idle capacity of any kind. Moreover, poultry experts are recommending fall brooding as part of well planned poultry management. Warm weather brooding is particularly successful on farms with electricity. There are several methods for using idle brooder capacity in the fall:

Fryers. Where there is a continuous and profitable market for fryers, a new brood can be started every 6 to 8 weeks during the entire season.

Roasters. Successful production of roasters may go on the year around. In this case, however, each brood will take from 10 to 14 weeks, sometimes a little longer.

Eggs. Pullets can be kept in the brooder house during fall and early winter months while the maximum number of eggs are obtained through lights and good management from older hens. As the older hens are culled, pullets are substituted in the laying house and brooding facilities are available for new baby chicks.

POULTRY LIGHTING. With electricity the poultry farmer has nothing to fear from weather and darkness. A few hours of electric light each day during the four or five winter months will level off egg production. More eggs are available when prices are high. All-night lighting with low wattage bulb over each feed trough is probably the best laying house lighting for the average farmer. Such lighting is easy to install, convenient to operate. Lighting will increase winter egg production 4 or 5 eggs per month per hen.

ULTRA-VIOLET LIGHT. Both chicks and mature poultry need plenty of sunshine vitamin to remain healthy. Ultra-violet lamps give better results than feeding of cod-liver oil. With the use of ultra-violet, as compared to the use of cod-liver oil, egg production on many farms increases at least 10 percent. Mortality is lower, and the quality of meat and eggs is better. Recent data from the Ohio Agricultural Experimental Station show total costs per 100 layers for ultra-violet light to be 37 cents per season compared to 75 cents for cod-liver oil.

POULTRY WATER WARMER. Egg production depends to a great extent upon abundant availability of water. The poultry water warmer helps to minimize cold weather slumps. At freezing temperatures the poultry water warmer is as important as the use of lights, and the cost is very small. The warmer is easily built at home.

ELECTRIC BROODERS AND POULTRY LIGHTING MAY BE FINANCED THROUGH REA

The "group purchase" plan used by many REA-financed cooperatives for lighting, wiring, plumbing, and appliance purchase, can be extended to the purchase of electric brooders. One system, for example, purchased 46 REA-approved commercially manufactured brooders at a saving to members of more than \$800, over \$17 per brooder. Every co-op manager is able to suggest ways to save money in buying commercial electric brooders.

REA has also published complete instructions for building an electric chick brooder at home. A set of "Make-It-Yourself" plans for this brooder is available at your co-op.

Hen-house lighting may be financed through the REA in the same manner as other wiring costs. Your co-op manager has information concerning the various types of lighting, and he can help you plan a modern poultry lighting installation for your farm.

The REA "Make-It-Yourself" Series

Farmers everywhere are making many low-cost electric appliances at home. Below is the list of "Make-It-Yourself" pamphlets now available from your co-op office. Others are constantly being added.

The Electric Chick Brooder.

The Electric Stock Tank Water Heater.

The Electric Pig Brooder.

The Electric Feed Mixer.

The Motor-Toter.

Rural Electrification Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture